

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC  
A Daimler Company

March 31, 2011

**SENT BY E-MAIL ([rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov)) AND CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL**

Mr. Claude Harris  
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
NVS-200, Room W45-306  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report**

Dear Mr. Harris

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, and on behalf of our parent company, Daimler AG (DAG), this letter advises you that Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) is initiating a safety related recall for certain Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Specifically, MBUSA submits this report regarding the vibration damper in certain Model Year 2011 Mercedes-Benz E-Class vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name

Daimler AG, Stuttgart, Germany.

Designated Agent: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC  
Montvale, NJ 07645573.6(c)(2)(i): Identification of Vehicles

<b>Make</b>	<b>Line/Model</b>	<b>Model Year</b>	<b>Inclusive Dates of Manufacture</b>
Mercedes-Benz	E-Class, Model W212 E-Class, Model S212	2011	July 8, 2010 – July 12, 2010



573.6(c)(2)(iv): Manufacturer's Name of Affected Component and Country of Origin

Affected Component: Vibration Damper  
Winkelmann Powertrain Components GmbH & Co. KG  
Schmalbachstr. 2  
59227 Ahlen  
Germany  
Phone: +49(0)23 82 - 856 0  
Website: www.wpc-ahlen.de

573.6(c)(3): Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

41 Mercedes-Benz vehicles are potentially affected in the US.

573.6(c)(4): Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect

The percentage of vehicles that are projected to actually contain the issue described is less than 10%.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

DAG has determined a possible inconsistency during the vulcanization process at the supplier for the vibration damper in the engine compartment. This can lead to insufficient adhesion between the vibration damper and its inner mass damper ring, which may cause a sudden separation of the inner mass damper ring from the vibration damper without prior warning. As a result, the kinetic energy of a separated mass damper ring can create a potential for personal injury when working in the engine compartment during engine operation.

573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events

In July, 2010 DAG received a message from the supplier indicating potential durability problems with the vibration damper. The production process at the supplier was immediately modified to eliminate the inconsistency. As soon as the supplier had notified DAG, the potentially affected parts were blocked and consequently scrapped. After completion of a detailed investigation of the issue DAG could not rule out that four potentially affected parts were installed in vehicles which had been retailed. In total 41 vehicles are suspected to contain these four potentially affected parts. A subsequent detailed technical evaluation confirmed the above.

573.6(c)(8)(i): Remedy Program

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for the subject vehicles described above. The recall will be conducted to replace the four potentially affected parts.

573.6(c)(8)(ii): Estimated Date of Owner and Dealer Notification

MBUSA expects to initiate the voluntary recall campaign, and to send dealer and owner notification, in April, 2011.

573.6(c)(10): Copies of Communications with Dealers or Purchasers

A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

573.6(c)(11): Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

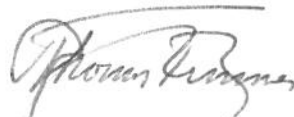
The MBUSA Recall Campaign Number will be provided when available.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. R. Thomas Brunner at [brunnert@mbusa.com](mailto:brunnert@mbusa.com).

Sincerely,



Frank J. Diertl  
General Manager,  
Engineering Services



R. Thomas Brunner  
Department Manager,  
Vehicle Compliance and Analysis